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SUBJECT The FDJ and Young Workers in the Russian Zone

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SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

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1. The FDJ in conjunction with the FDGB recently raised the whole question of the employment of young Germans in the Russian Zone. All political parties in the zone, together with the Kulturbund, Volkssolidaritt, the two Churches, etc., signed an appeal which went before the Russian authorities.
2. Long discussions were held with the Jugendleitung of the SMA, and industrial branches, in which only the FDJ and FDGB were invited to participate. Among other matters it was decided to set up industrial and agricultural training establishments, living quarters for young Germans without parents or homes, and youth hostels and youth recreation centers.
3. Heinz Kssler, of the Zentralrat of the FDJ, has taken over the responsibility of putting this program into effect.
4. Questionnaires have been sent to employers requesting figures of all young people employed, together with a break-down into apprentices and full-blown workers, in order to decide on the number of training establishments that should be established.
5. Because of the need to maintain a certain level of production especially in those factories which are working for the Russians, and because in most cases machines and equipment are only available in sufficient quantities to maintain this bare level of production, it is difficult for employers to set aside any of their young workers for training.

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6. [redacted] most factories had to be compelled to make arrangements for training. Furthermore, the response among the young workers themselves had not been as great as had been expected. In the large concerns in Saxony under State control, where training establishments have already been set up, they cannot be filled, since the young workers are almost all dependent on their wages, and in some cases have to support families as well. Accommodation difficulties prevent any extensive program of transference of pupils.

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7. Now that these difficulties have become apparent, the CDU and LDF have become apathetic to the scheme. It appears that it was not intended purely as a training program for the various crafts but as a means of forming training establishments as affiliated groups of the FDJ. [redacted] the "training factories of the FDJ". [redacted] since the Russians had in many cases had to enforce their establishment, the FDJ had suffered from its connection with the scheme.

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